

REMARKS

The present patent application was filed on October 15, 2003 with claims 1-48. Claims 12-48 were withdrawn from consideration in response to a previous restriction requirement. Therefore, claims 1-11 are being presented for examination on the merits.

5 Independent claim 1 is being amended herein. No new matter is being added by the amendment. Support for the amendment to independent claim 1 may be found, for example, on page 8, line 26, of the specification. The amendment to independent claim 1 is not being made for the purposes of patentability, but merely to clarify the subject matter to which Applicants are entitled.

10 In the present Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,140,209 issued to Iwane et al. (hereinafter "Iwane"). The Examiner also rejected claims 1-3, 6-9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,494,858 issued to Gnade et al. (hereinafter "Gnade").

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

15 As mentioned above, the Examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly unpatentable over Iwane. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections. Notwithstanding this traversal, Applicants have amended independent claim 1, from which claims 2-12 ultimately depend. Applicants respectfully point out that Iwane does not teach or suggest a carrier substrate having a separation plane defined by a porous region with a tuned porosity in combination
20 with a species positioned therein, as recited in independent claim 1. The Examiner's remarks are silent as to any such teachings in Iwane. As such, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is thus respectfully requested.

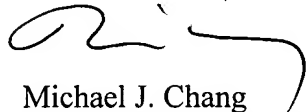
As also mentioned above, the Examiner also rejected claims 1-3, 6-9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly unpatentable over Gnade. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's
25 rejections. Notwithstanding this traversal, Applicants have amended independent claim 1, from which claims 2-12 ultimately depend. Applicants respectfully point out that Gnade does not teach or suggest a carrier substrate having a separation plane defined by a porous region with a tuned porosity in combination with a species positioned therein, as recited in independent claim 1. The Examiner's remarks are silent as to any such teachings in Gnade. As such, reconsideration and withdrawal of the
30 rejections is thus respectfully requested.

Given the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit the all the pending claims, i.e., claims 1-11, are in condition for allowance and such favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

The Examiner's attention to this matter is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: July 8, 2005

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